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**From:** Vaughn, Stephanie  
**Sent:** Thur 1/24/2013 6:31:44 PM  
**Subject:** Background tissue analysis plan, additional comments....

Hi Rob,

Here are some additional comments on the background tissue analysis plan. Please let us know if you would like to discuss any of these prior to addressing them.

Thanks,  
Stephanie

1. Subsequent reports should include a discussion of total length and other statistical parameters for each sample, so that the background results can be properly compared to results from the lower 17-miles.
2. American Eel -- in addition to the fillet samples that are planned, and if available tissue mass is adequate to meet analytical tissue mass requirements, please analyze whole body samples instead of the fillet/carcass samples. This will be more comparable to what was done in the lower 17-miles.
3. Carp -- in addition to the fillet samples that are planned, and if available tissue mass is adequate to meet analytical tissue mass requirements, please analyze whole body samples instead of the fillet/carcass samples. This will be more comparable to what was done in the lower 17-miles.
4. Gender -- to the extent possible, please analyze equal numbers of male and female specimens per sample, if available tissue mass is adequate to meet analytical tissue mass requirements and without violating the 75% length criteria.

In addition, the following is EPA's understanding of how we resolved the previous comments submitted on the plan:

- White perch: the CPG determined that there is insufficient mass to analyze whole body rather than carcass. No change to the draft proposal will be made.
- Brown bullhead: the 6 fillet samples will be retained.
- White sucker: the CPG will analyze this species as EPA suggested.
- Smallmouth bass: the CPG will analyze this species as EPA suggested.
- Largemouth bass: the data was reviewed and no additional largemouth bass samples will be analyzed.